

↓ **Implementation Strategy WR 1.7.1 Protect agricultural water supplies**

Consider adopting land use standards, such as growth management ordinance limits for non-agriculturally-related development on certain rural areas, larger minimum parcel sizes in certain rural areas, and merger of substandard rural parcels, in order to protect agricultural water supplies from competing land uses.

Policy WR 1.8 Use of surface water projects

Water from surface water projects (e.g. Lopez Lake, Lake Nacimiento) will only be used to serve development within urban and village reserve lines and will not be used to serve development in rural areas.

Policy WR 1.9 Discourage new water systems

Enable expansion of public services by community services districts and County service areas to serve contiguous development when water is available. Strongly discourage the formation of new water and sewer systems serving urban development at the fringe and outside of urban or village reserve lines or services lines. Strongly discourage the formation of new mutual or private water companies in groundwater basins with Resource Management System Levels of Severity I, II, or III, except where needed to resolve health and safety concerns.

Policy WR 1.10 Water wheeling

When water wheeling is proposed to serve new development, demonstrate that the conveyance facility has an adequate unused capacity in accordance with the California Water Code.

Policy WR 1.11 Reduce RMS alert levels

The County will work with local agencies to reduce Resource Management System alert levels for water supply and water systems from recommended or certified Levels of Severity II or III to Level of Severity I or better by 2020.

Water Wheeling
occurs when one agency conveys water through another agency's facility. California Water Code requires that wheeling must not harm any other legal user of water.



↓ **Implementation Strategy WR 2.2.2 Improve well permit data collection**

Improve data obtained from well permit applications regarding location, depth, yield, use, flow direction, and water levels.

↓ **Implementation Strategy WR 2.2.3 Pursue data collection from all groundwater wells**

Secure right of access to all new key wells together with retaining voluntary access to existing wells having useful histories to ensure that the County's investment in these records is protected. Develop a data collection program by seeking permission from each of the well owners for County use with identification of the land owner protected from public or other uses and individual data shall remain confidential. ~~The County should seek to obtain unlimited permission from each of the well owners for releasing or publishing groundwater data.~~

↓ **Implementation Strategy WR 2.2.4 Groundwater data collection from water purveyors**

Require, to the extent feasible, all water purveyors with five or more connections to report monthly pumping data to the Department of Planning and Building on an annual basis for use in the Resource Management System.

↓ **Implementation Strategy WR 2.2.5 Groundwater data collection for new development**

Condition discretionary land use permits for new, non-agricultural uses in groundwater basins with a recommended or certified Level of Severity I, II, or III to monitor and report water use to the Department of Planning and Building on an annual basis for use in the Resource Management System.

Policy WR 2.3 Well permits

Require all well permits to be consistent with the adopted groundwater management plans.

↓ **Implementation Strategy WR 2.3.1 Revise well permit procedures**

Revise well permit procedures to address adopted groundwater management plan objectives and adjudication standards.



Santa Margarita Lake

"People have a fundamental yearning for great bodies of water. But the very movement of the people toward the water can also destroy the water."

-Christopher Alexander, Sara Ishikawa, and Murray Silverstein, A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction (Oxford, 1977)



WATER CONSERVATION**GOAL****4**

PER CAPITA POTABLE WATER USE IN THE COUNTY WILL DECLINE BY 20 PERCENT BY 2020.

Policy WR 4.1 Reduce water use

Employ water conservation programs to achieve an overall 20% reduction in per capita residential and commercial water use in the unincorporated area by 2020. Continue to improve agricultural water use efficiency consistent with ~~and that consider existing water conservation efforts.~~ (Also refer to Policy AGP 20 in the Agricultural Element.)

↓ ***Implementation Strategy WR 4.1.1 Identify baseline per capita water use***

Identify, within six months of adoption of this Conservation and Open Space Element, per capita water use ~~at the time of adoption of this Element as the baseline~~, using sub-regional or community data where available.

↓ ***Implementation Strategy WR 4.1.2 Adopt countywide water conservation ordinance***

Develop and adopt a countywide water conservation ordinance that includes water efficiency and conservation standards for new development and the retrofit-upon-sale of existing residential and commercial properties. Prepare a public review ~~draft~~ Land Use Ordinance amendment by the end of 2011.

↓ ***Implementation Strategy WR 4.1.3 Evaluate a countywide water conservation program***

Evaluate the feasibility of creating a consortium, Joint Powers Authority, Memorandum of Understanding, or other formal partnership with all water purveyors in the county to provide a comprehensive and consistent countywide water conservation program that includes education, outreach, and financial incentives.

